

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 07014 291311Z

43

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CEQ-02 COA-02

COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19

AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 /267 W

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R 290915Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHC 5195

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7014

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR

SUBJECT: LOS - CONSULTATIONS IN KOREA

1. SUMMARY. ROK POSITION STILL UNCERTAIN ON STRAITS. WHILE INTERESTED IN DISTANT WATER FISHING, THEY APPEAR RECONCILED TO ECONOMIC ZONE, AND SEE FULL UTILIZATION AS POSSIBLE KEY TO HARMONIZATION OF THEIR INTERESTS. THEY ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN POLITICAL MANEUVERS AT CONFERENCE. RO DESCRIBED ROK INTERESTS AT CONFERENCE AS POLITICAL (N. KOREA), ECONOMIC (FISHERIES), AND STRATEGIC (MAINLY YOUR INTERESTS").
END SUMMARY.

2. US TEAM CALLED ON ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS KIM CHONG-TAE WHERE WE STRESSED STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN STRAITS. WE THEN MET WITH HAN U-SOK, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 07014 291311Z

& TREATIES BUREAU, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; RO CHANG-HUI, CHIEF,

TREATIES DIVISION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; PARK SOO-KIL, COUNSELOR, ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AND KIM SANG SOO, DEPUTY CHIEF, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIVISION, OFFICE OF FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION. RO IS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE. KOREAN AMBASSADORS TO UN, VENEZUELA AND PERU WILL HAVE PROMINENT ROLE ON DEL. RO, KIM SANG SOO, AND A NAVY CAPTAIN (AT PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTION) WILL ATTEND FROM SEOUL.

3. STRAITS. WE PRESSED HARD WITH STRATEGIC ARGUMENTS. WHILE WAN MADE ACCOMMODATING RESPONSES, RO'S REFERENCES TO INNOPQYA PASSAGE, PROBLEMS OF GETTING LDC'S TO ACCEPT FREE TRANSIT, AMBIGUOUS JAPANESE POSITION, AND CONCERNS REGARDING NORTH KOREAN USE OF STRAITS MAY BE MORE ACCURATE REFLECTION OF ROK VIEWS. WE ARGUED THAT ARMISTICE AGREEMENT (WHICH LIMITS NORTH KOREAN ACTIVITIES OFF ROK COAST) WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY LOS TREATY, AND THAT ROK COULD STATE THIS UNDERSTANDING AT APPROPRIATE TIME. WE NOTED THAT RESERVATIONS TO STRAITS ARTICLE WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE. SINCE ROK CONCERN RELATED MAINLY TO CHE JU STRAIT, WE ALSO SAID IN CONFIDENCE THAT IN LIGHT EMBASSY'S REPORTS OF ROK CONCERN, WE WERE STUDYING QUESTION OF STRAITS FORMED BY SMALL OFFSHORE ISLANDS, BUT HAD REACHED NO CONCLUSIONS, AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ROK DELEGATES AT CARACAS. EMBASSY PLANS TO REINFORCE OUR EFFORTS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NEXT WEEK, WHICH MAY BE PARTICULARLY TIMELY IN VIEW FACT ROK WILL BE CONSIDERING DEL INSTRUCTIONS BEGINNING NEXT WEEK.

4. COASTAL SEABED RESOURCES. ROK ASSUMES LOS TREATY WILL NOT AFFECT CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN. RO DOES NOT EXPECT JAPANESE DIET TO APPROVE AGREEMENT BEFORE CARACAS SESSION ENDS.

5. FISHERIES. ROK APPEARS RECONCILED TO 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, BUT IS VERY INTERESTED IN FULL UTILIZATION CONCEPT. THEY EXPRESSED MINIMAL INTEREST IN SALMON, BUT WISHED TO KNOW HOW US APPROACH WOULD AFFECT THEIR INTEREST IN POLLOCK OFF N. AMERICA. WE ENCOURAGED THEM TO WORK WITH THAILAND, SINGAPORE, AND KUWAIT IN CONTEXT ASIAN GROUP.

6. POLLUTION. ROK IS OPPOSED TO COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION OVER VESSEL-SOURCE POLLUTION, AND FAVORS FLAG STATE STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT. IT IS ALSO OPPOSED TO HIGH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 07014 291311Z

AND FAVORS "MEDIUM" STANDARDS. RO APPEARED TO FAVOR US POSITION ON MINIMUM ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR THE SEABEDS.

7. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEEP SEABEDS. RO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO EXPRESS DIFFERENCE OF VIEW WITH US ON RESEARCH, AND WITH US LICENSING APPROACH ON DEEP SEABEDS. HE DID NOT ELABORATE. WE EXPLAINED MODERATION OF OUR APPROACH ON RESEARCH AND RATIONALE FOR OUR DEEP SEABEDS POSITION, BUT GOT NO REACTION. TEAM

ASSESSMENT IS THAT ROK IS LOOKING FOR ISSUES TO LINE UP WITH LDC'S IN LIGHT POLITICAL COMPETITION WITH NORTH KOREA. SITUATION ON RESEARCH PARTICULARLY CURIOUS IN LIGHT NORTH KOREAN ACTIVITY AT NAIROBI DISCUSSED IN NEXT PARA.

8. NORTH KOREAN ACTIVITY. AT EMBASSY LUNCH, RO SAID NORTH KOREANS HAVE LINED UP WITH CHINESE POSITION. AT NAIROBI, THEY ATTACKED ROK FOR ALLOWING US AND JAPAN TO PLUNDER KOREAN RESOURCES, AND MADE STRONG PUSH AGAINST FREEDOM OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, SAYING IT IS GOOD AS A COVER FOR ESPIONAGE, AND CITING PUEBLO INCIDENT. RO SUMMARIZED NORTH KOREAN POSITION AS ADVOCACY OF ANYTHING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WANT, AS A QUID PRO QUO FOR POLITICAL SUPPORT. HE SAID NORTH KOREAN SPEECH WAS REFERRED TO APPROVINGLY BY "TWO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES" AND CONFIRMED THAT ONE WAS PERU.

9. TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. STRAITS. RECOMMEND WE AWAIT REPORT ON FURTHER EFFORTS BY EMBASSY BEFORE CONSIDERING ADDITIONAL MOVES. HOWEVER, HIGH LEVEL EFFORT TO PREVENT OPPOSITION MAY BE NECESSARY IF RESPONSE IS NOT SATISFACTORY.

B. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

1. RECOMMEND WE NOT PRESS ROK ON ISSUE, AS ROK STATEMENT ON RESEARCH COULD WELL STIMULATE OR AGGRAVATE INJECTION OF PUEBLO INCIDENT AT CARACAS.

2. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT PREPARE PAPER WITH FACTS AND ARGUMENTS ON PUEBLO INCIDENT AND RESEARCH-ESPIONAGE ISSUE FOR POSSIBLE USE IN EVENT IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO MAKE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREAN CHARGES AT CARACAS.

C. DEEP SEABEDS. ROK WILL HAVE SMALL DELEGATION AND PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ACTIVE ON ISSUE. RECOMMEND WE LEAVE THEM ALONE ON ISSUE FOR THE TIME BEING.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 SAIGON 07014 291311Z

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